

REMARKS

Claims 5 and 6 are pending in this application. Claims 5 and 6 are independent claims.

By this amendment, claims 5 and 6 are amended, and claims 1-4 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer thereto.

Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully solicited.

Bearing in mind the comments in Official Final Action regarding the allowability of dependent claims 5 and 6, the present application is amended so as to place it into condition for allowance by rewriting the claims accordingly. An early indication of the same would be greatly appreciated.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication on page 5 of the final Office Action that **claims 5 and 6** would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant respectfully point out that claims 5 and 6 are herein amended so as to be in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, claims 5 and 6 are in condition for allowance.

The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Final Office Action indicates that:

(1) claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Publication No. 06-283999 to Hosoya et al. (hereafter Hosoya) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,883,830 to Hirt et al. (hereafter Hirt); and

(2) claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosoya in view of Hirt and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2001/0047127 to New, Jr. (hereafter New, Jr.).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully points out that claims 1-4 are canceled herein.

As such, the rejection of claims 1-4 is moot.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-4 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Carolyn T. Baumgardner (Reg. No. 41,345) at (703) 205-8000 **to schedule a Personal Interview.**

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment from or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17; particularly, the extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 13, 2006

By 

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